Releasing of Telephone Connections in Kerala During Eighth Plan Period

7191. SHRI RAMESH CHANNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of telephone connections likely to be released in Kerala during the Eighth Five Year Plan, district-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): The draft Eighth plan proposals (1992-97) for the country including each district of Kereala envisage:

- Provision of telephone connection practically on demand in the Rural and the Tribal Areas.

- Waiting period for a new telephone connection not to exceed two years in larger telephone systems of 10, 000 lines or more.

It is estimated that to achieve the above objectives around 4 lakh new telephone connections will be required to be provided in Kerala during the 8th Plan Period. The Plans are approved only on annual basis and therefore district-wise break-up for the five year period is not available.

T.V. Converage In Orissa

7192. SHRI SIVAJI PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Orissa population is covered by Doordarshan Transmitters and to what extent it is less than the national coverage;

(b) the steps the Government propose to take to overcome the gap;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa has urged the Union Government to set up more L.P.Ts. during the Eighth Plan period; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) The TV service is available to an estimated 77% populaion of Orissa aganist the national average of about 81%. There coverage figures are inclusive of the population in fringe areas where elevated antennae and boosters are required for obtainoing satisfactory reception.

(b) Besides the low power TV transmitters under implementatic at Puri and Makangiri, high power (10KW) trasnsmitters are also envisaged to be set-up at Baleshwar and Sambalpur (in replace of the existing transmitters), subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities. With the commissioing of these transmitters, an estimated 83% population of Orissa is expected to be brought under TV coveragd inclusive of population in fringe areas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A low power TV transmitter is already under implementation at malkangiri. The extisting 1 KW transmitter at Sambalpur is also envisaged to be replaced by a 10 KW transmitter subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections in Madhya Pradesh

7193. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: